

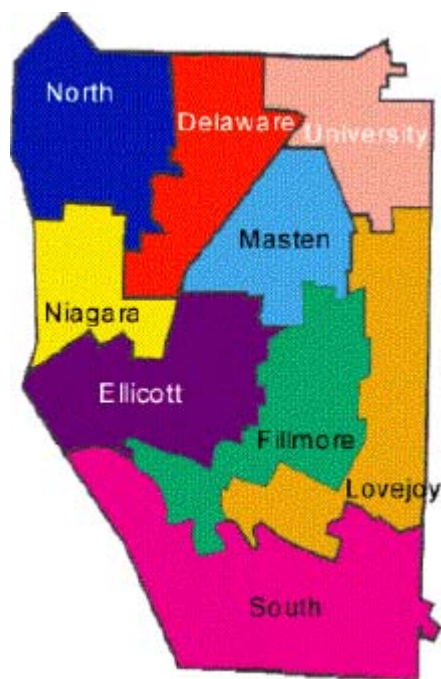
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Buffalo, New York

Profile of Drug Indicators

February 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Buffalo, New York

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 Census): 292,648
- Race/Ethnicity (2000): 51.8% white; 36.6% black/African American; 0.7% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.4% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander; 0.2% some other race; 1.9% two or more races; 7.5% Hispanic/Latino
- The city of Buffalo is located in Erie County.

Politics

- Mayor: Anthony M. Masiello²
- Common Council Members (District): Marc A. Coppola (Delaware); Brian Davis (Ellicott); David Franczyk (Fillmore); Richard A. Fontana (Lovejoy); Antoine M. Thompson (Masten); Dominic Bonifacio (Niagara); Joe Golombek (North); Mary Martino (South); Betty Jean Grant (University); Beverly A. Gray (Council Member-at-large); Rosemarie LoTempio (Council Member-at-large); Charley H. Fisher III (Council Member-at-large); James W. Pitts (Council President).³
- Commissioner of Police: Rocco J. Diina⁴
- Erie County Sheriff: Patrick M. Gallivan⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- S.H.I.E.L.D. 2002⁶
S.H.I.E.L.D. 2002 highlights programs, and initiatives that the Erie County Sheriff's Department will implement in the coming year. The components include:
 - Stamping Out Drug And Alcohol Abuse: Due to an increase in drug-related deaths and substance abuse related court cases, the Sheriff's Office will implement educational (including Drug Abuse Resistance Education programs) and enforcement initiatives.
 - Highway Safety: The Sheriff's Office will continue to focus emphasis on drugged, drunken and reckless driving arrests as well as other highway safety prevention issues.
 - Integrated Community Policing: The Sheriff's Office will hold community forums to provide citizens with the opportunity to communicate with local law enforcement.
 - Eliminating Family Violence: The role of patrol officers will include working with social service and support groups to counsel families on prevention and assist victims of crime.
 - Law and Order: Fighting Violent and Juvenile Crime: The Sheriff's Office will work to address adult and juvenile violent crime issues in the area.
 - Department Reform: The Sheriff's Office will evaluate its current structure and procedures to determine the most effective method of operation.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program⁷
From FY 1998 when Drug-Free Communities funding was first available, to FY 2002 when the most recent grants were awarded, no community coalitions in Buffalo have ever received funding through this program.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed⁸
Buffalo has received Federal funding and official recognition as a Weed and Seed site.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) FY 2001 Discretionary Funds received in Buffalo:⁹
 - \$200,000 to Catholic Charities of Buffalo. Project Period 9/30/01-9/29/03.
- No Buffalo grantees received funding through the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program.¹⁰
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant amount received in Buffalo: \$60,000 to the Waterfront Limited Partnership.¹¹
- FY 2001 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in Buffalo:¹²
 - \$225,000 to the City of Buffalo for Weed and Seed
 - \$44,999 to Erie County for ICAC-Satellite Task Force Program
 - \$150,000 to the City of Buffalo for Police Integrity Program (COPS)
 - \$74,138 to Erie County Sheriff for COPS More-Large Jurisdictions
 - \$200,000 to Erie County for grants to encourage arrest policies
 - \$997,107 to the City of Buffalo for Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program
 - \$18,064 to Erie County for State Criminal Alien Assistance Program
 - \$21,233 to Erie County for Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program
- There were no Buffalo recipients of the FY 2002 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.¹³

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2000, there were 20,248 index offenses known to police in Buffalo.¹⁴ This number decreased to 19,894 in 2001.¹⁵ Preliminary data for 2002 show that there were 8,860 crime index offenses known to police from January to June 2002.¹⁶

Index Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, Buffalo, 2000-June 2002

Offense type	2000	2001	Jan-June 2002
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	39	64	22
Forcible rape	176	229	77
Robbery	1,555	1,600	763
Aggravated assault	1,887	1,816	870
Burglary	4,194	3,965	1,750
Larceny-theft	9,831	9,669	4,242
Motor vehicle theft	2,566	2,551	1,136
Arson	352	444	--
Crime index total	20,248	19,894	8,860

- During 2001, there were 53 arrests for sale/manufacture of drugs and 2,569 arrests for use/possession of drugs in Buffalo.¹⁷

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Buffalo, 2001

Offense Type	2001
Homicide	36
Rape	51
Robbery	444
Assault	921
Burglary	435
Larceny	875
Arson	20
Sale/Manufacture of drugs	53
Use/Possession of drugs	2,569
DWI	126

- During 2000, the Erie County Sheriff's Office reported 155 narcotic related arrests and 316 DWI arrests.¹⁸

Drugs¹⁹

- Crack availability is increasing in Buffalo.
- Club drug use is spreading from New York City to Buffalo.
- Methamphetamine is hardly ever abused in Buffalo.

Enforcement²⁰

- As of October 31, 2001, there were 1,143 full-time police employees working in Buffalo (933 officers and 210 civilians).

Trafficking and Seizures

- Local law enforcement report that violent crimes are associated with cocaine distribution. African American, Colombian, Dominican, and Puerto Rican criminal groups are the primary retail distributors of cocaine.²¹
- Dominican, Puerto Rican, and African American criminal groups in New York City supply gangs and independent retail distributors in Buffalo.²²
- Local law enforcement have reported an increase in drug-related violence due to an influx on Jamaican criminals who are threatening drug distribution in areas long controlled by local marijuana distributors.²³
- Large parcels of land are no longer being used for outdoor marijuana cultivation.²⁴
- Seizures of cocaine arriving from Canada at U.S. ports of entry (POEs) usually are personal-use amounts. Cocaine seizure activity is highest at the busiest U.S./Canada border crossings, including Buffalo, which averages up to three seizures per month.²⁵
- Overland drug smuggling between the U.S. and Canada typically occurs along the Washington State-British Columbia border in the West, at the Detroit-Windsor and Buffalo POEs in the Great Lakes area, and along the Quebec and Ontario borders with New York, Vermont and Maine in the East.²⁶

- During August 2001, local law enforcement seized 12 kilograms of cocaine that had been transported directly from Texas.²⁷

Courts²⁸

- As of January 2003, there are 6 drug courts in operation or being planned in Buffalo. One drug court has been operating over two years, two were recently implemented, and three were being planned.

Corrections²⁹

- As of February 2003, there were 1,320 inmates, from three facilities, remanded to the Erie Sheriff's Department custody.

Consequences of Use

- During 1999, there were 2,711 emergency department (ED) drug-related episodes in Buffalo. This number increased during 2001 to 3,356 ED drug-related episodes. Preliminary data for 2002 show that there were 2,254 ED drug-related episodes in Buffalo from January to June 2002.³⁰

Number of Emergency Department (ED) Drug Mentions, Buffalo, 1999-June 2002

Drug Type	Full Year 1999	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Jan-June 2002
Alcohol-in-combination	1,222	1,393	1,548	1,252
Cocaine	1,119	1,018	1,220	838
Heroin	522	681	607	484
Marijuana	493	553	561	192
Amphetamines	28	25	17	10
Methamphetamine	7	5	4	0
MDMA (Ecstasy)	16	18	8	15
Ketamine	0	0	0	2
LSD	26	3	10	7
PCP	1	10	3	2
Miscellaneous hallucinogens	2	1	0	3
Rohypnol	0	0	0	0
GHB	3	6	1	0
Inhalants	1	4	0	0
Combinations not tabulated above	0	0	0	0
Total drug episodes	2,711	2,899	3,356	2,254
Total drug mentions	4,927	5,374	5,935	4,214

- During 2000, there were 83 drug-related deaths in Erie County.³¹

Number of Medical Examiner (ME) Drug Mentions, Erie County (Buffalo), 1998-2000

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000
Alcohol-in-combination	34	33	40
Cocaine	27	36	27
Heroin/morphine	23	37	28
Marijuana	17	12	19
Amphetamines	--	1	--
Methamphetamine	1	1	--
Club Drugs*	1	1	2
Hallucinogens**	--	--	--
Inhalants	3	--	--
Narcotic Analgesics	31	26	39
Other Analgesics	3	8	--
Benzodiazepines	13	18	15
Antidepressants	29	36	29
All other substances	42	37	30
Total drug deaths	82	100	83
Total drug mentions	224	246	229

Note: *includes Ecstasy (MDMA), Ketamine, GHB-GBL and Rohypnol. **includes PCP, LSD and miscellaneous hallucinogens.

Treatment

- Individuals seeking methadone treatment at clinics in Buffalo during 2002 are much younger than abusers who sought treatment in the previous year.³²
- The Substance Abuse Program of Buffalo City:³³
- operates 5 treatment facilities and one substance abuse prevention program;
 - provides clinically established outpatient, ambulatory and accepted drug free counseling and advocacy services to substance abusing individuals and their families;
 - provides complete medical exams to all clients screened deemed appropriate for services;
 - provides vocational/educational services for clientele and residents of Municipal Housing; and
 - provides residents, especially youths residing in Municipal Housing, with meaningful cultural, educational and recreational activities.

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² Buffalo Mayor's Web site: http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/document_4.html

³ Buffalo Common Council Web site: http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/document_6.html

⁴ Buffalo Police Department Web site: <http://www.city-buffalo.com/Police/My%20Webs/Bufferalo%20Police%20Home%20Page.htm>

⁵ Erie County Sheriff's Office, Official Web site: <http://www.erie.gov/sheriff/>

⁶ Erie County Sheriff's Office, S.H.I.E.L.D. 2002: <http://www.erie.gov/sheriff/shield.asp>

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- ⁷ Drug-Free Communities Support Program, New York: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/ny.html>
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- ⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, FY 2001 Discretionary Funds Web site, New York: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states01/ny.htm>
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- ¹⁷ Buffalo Police Department, Crime Statistics: <http://www.city-buffalo.com/Police/My%20Webs/Crime%20Statistics.htm>
- ¹⁸ Erie County Sheriff's Office, *Year-End Report: Overview of Activity in 2000*:
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- ¹⁹ National Drug Intelligence Center, *New York Drug Threat Assessment*, November 2002:
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- ²¹ National Drug Intelligence Center, *New York Drug Threat Assessment*, November 2002:
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- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ Ibid.
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ National Drug Intelligence Center, *United States-Canada Border Drug Threat Assessment*, December 2001: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/794/index.htm>
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ National Drug Intelligence Center, *New York Drug Threat Assessment*, November 2002:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs2/2580/index.htm>
- ²⁸ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, January 8, 2003
- ²⁹ Erie County Sheriff's Office Web site, Inmate section: <http://www.erie.gov/sheriff/inmates.asp>
- ³⁰ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, *Emergency Department Trends From the Drug Abuse Warning Network, Preliminary Estimates, January-June 2002*, December 2002:
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